Andante

by Obana Miho

Volume 02 Chapter 007

Translator: Deanna
Proofreader: Duffyd ap Morgan
Editor: Cika
QCer: Suyaru

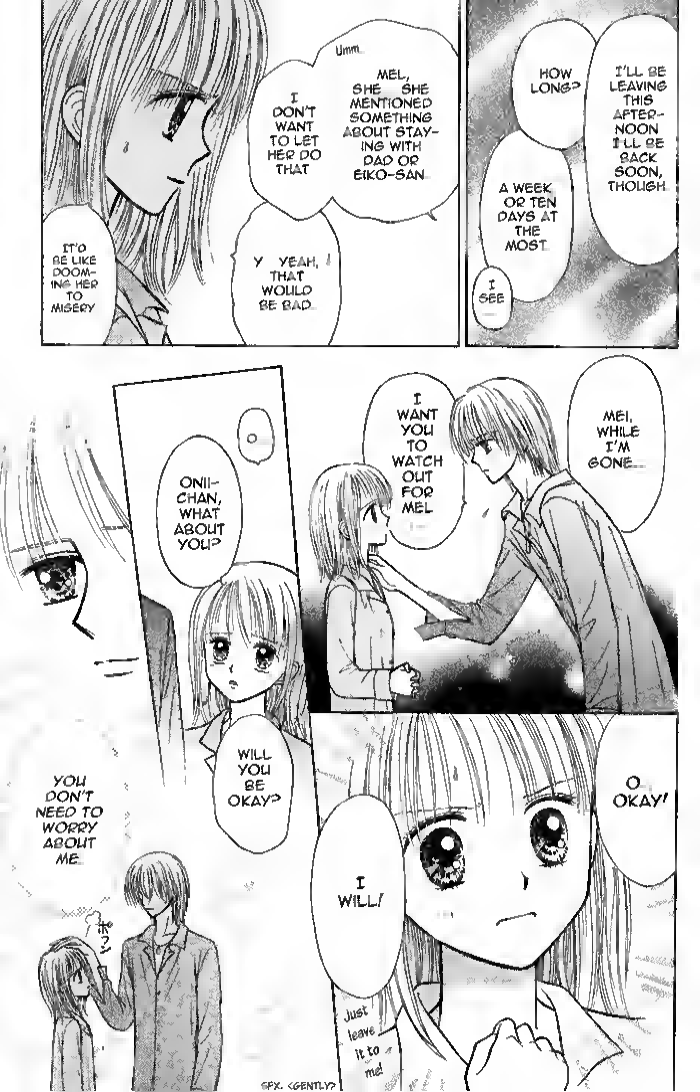
MangaArt
漫画アート

Dā!
Like these projects?
Join MangaArt
http://mangaart.ae/
Experienced editors and
Japanese translators
WANTED!

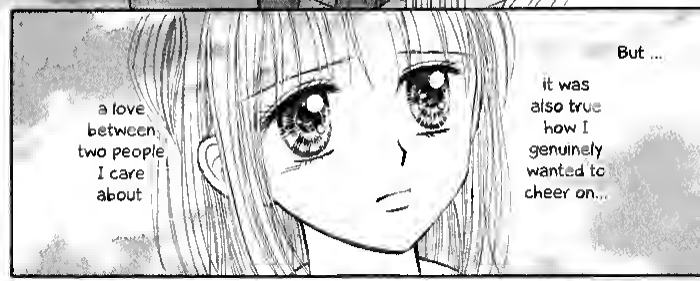
Onii-chan is...
Probably at the airport by now, huh
*SFX <SUHA> "BELLS RINGING?
This morning, he asked me to come to his room When I did...
I was shocked to see him packing to leave
WH... WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?
YEAH. IT'S SUDDEN, BUT
I'M GOING TO ENGLAND FOR A BIT ON A JOB

MangaArt 漫画アート

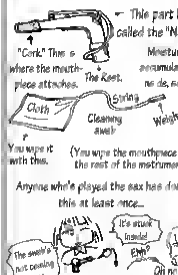
EHH!?
England!?
I'VE MENTIONED IT TO YOU BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?
THAT I WAS INVITED TO DO A PROJECT WITH A FAMOUS ENGLISH MUSIC PRODUCER
At a studio in London.
OH...
"ROBERT B-SAN"
Wasn't it?
HE'S A REALLY FAMOUS GUY!
RIGHT! RIGHT!
I'VE BEEN BUSY, SO I KEPT PUTTING IT OFF BUT...
I CALLED AIDA-SAN LAST NIGHT, AND SHE SAID ANY TIME WAS FINE, EVEN TODAY
And the plane was available, too...
I... I SEE. IT REALLY IS SUDDEN, ISN'T IT...?
YEAH, SORRY...
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY
TO PUT MY FEELINGS IN ORDER, TOO...
OH, I SEE...
Yeah...
Yeah, it's probably pretty tough to show his face to Mei now...
I'M SORRY, MEI...
IT'S REALLY SELFISH, ISN'T IT?
NO, NO, IT'S FINE.


I'LL BE LEAVING THIS AFTERNOON I'LL BE BACK SOON, THOUGH.
HOW LONG?
A WEEK OR TEN DAYS AT THE MOST.
I SEE...
Umm...
MEI, SHE SHE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT STAYING WITH DAD OR EIKO-SAN.
I DON'T WANT TO LET HER DO THAT
Y YEAH, THAT WOULD BE BAD...
IT'D BE LIKE DOOMING HER TO MISERY
MEI, WHILE I'M GONE...
I WANT YOU TO WATCH OUT FOR MEI
O...
ONII-CHAN, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WILL YOU BE OKAY?
O... OKAY!
I WILL!
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
Just leave it to me!
SFX: <GENTLY>
HK?

SFX: <SCREECH>
That the two of them were so
lovey-dovey it
was painful for me.
ゴオオオ
SFX: <RRRRRR>

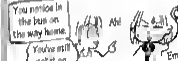

a love between two people I care about
But ...
it was also true how I genuinely wanted to cheer on...

EVERYONE BE SURE TO DO YOUR CRUNCHES AND PRACTICE WHILE I'M GONE!
Ummm!
Yeeeee.
SORRY, I CAN'T PARTICIPATE TODAY. FAMILY CIRCUM-STANCES!
SFX: <TOOOT>
AH! MEI-SEMPAI!
PRESI-DENT!



Anyone who's played the sax has done this at least once...

Also, anyone who's played the sax has probably also gone home after club with their scrap around their neck.



This wasn't really a "lecture," was it? It was "memories"... Well, that's okay, isn't it?

About the case

The case the saxophone came in when I bought it was a hard case.

The one Mei often carries around is a soft leather case, but to be honest I don't really recommend this.

A shopkeeper also told me, "If this is what you want, I'll sell it to you, but I can't recommend it."

As for why that is...

To be continued

SFX. <GENTLE>

I'M HOME

SFX. <CLOMP CLOMP FOOTSTEPS>

For now, I gotta step up and support Mei!

バタン

The showy homecomings are over

SFX. <KNOCK KNOCK>

コン コン

MEE-EEL?

Just like normal

It's best to deal with her the same as always

Probably...

ズダダダ

Because Onii-chan asked me to!

SFX. <KNOCK KNOCK>

コン コン

MEI?

I'M COMING IN

I wonder if she's asleep?

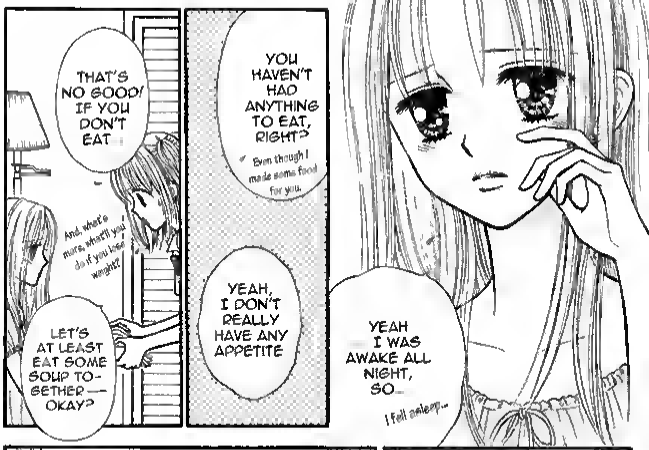
No, it's not just that! I'm worried-worried!

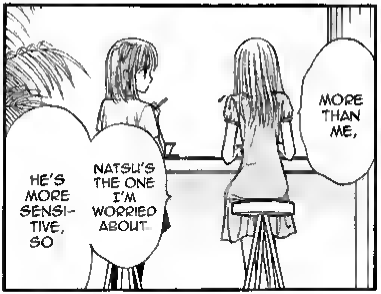
キィ

I'M COMING IN, OKAY?

SFX. <CREAK>

SFX: <ZZZ>
SFX: <DIZZY?>
Bea...
There's a sleeping princess in our hoooooome.
Beautiful
Every time I look...
SFX: <STAGGER>
よろ
She's so beautiful she even makes my heart race... and I'm a girl.
No wonder oni-chan couldn't help himself.
Huh?
MEDICINE
I wonder what this is—
Looks like medicine from a hospital?
An Australian one?
I wonder what kind of medicine it is...?
A cold or something?
MMM, ME! ..?
OH, PRINCESS, YOU'RE AWAKE?
PRINCESS
SFX: <QUICKLY>
SFX: <SWIFT>


YEAH I WAS AWAKE ALL NIGHT, SO...
I fell asleep...
YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT, RIGHT?
Even though I made some food for you.
YEAH, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY APPETITE
THAT'S NO GOOD! IF YOU DON'T EAT
And what's more, what'll you do if you lose weight?
LET'S AT LEAST EAT SOME SOUP TOGETHER — OKAY?


MORE THAN ME,
HE'S MORE SENSITIVE, SO
NATSU'S THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT.

I WONDER IF HE'LL REALLY COME HOME
NATSU... I WONDER IF HE'LL REALLY BE OKAY ALL BY HIMSELF
HE SAID I DIDN'T NEED TO WORRY,
AND IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MEL
HE'S USED TO GOING OVERSEAS ANYWAY.

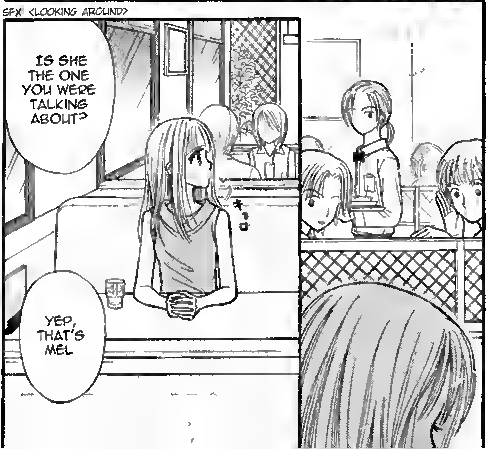
Sensitive...
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE HIM, MEL?
YES

WHEN I FIRST MET NATSU
I THOUGHT HE WAS A VERY ADULT GENTLEMAN. BUT
REALLY HE'S A VERY ORDINARY BOY
I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY
BUT HE TRIES HIS HARDEST TO BE AN ADULT, AND TO BE A GOOD BROTHER TO YOU, MEI.
THE FIRST
BOY I'VE EVER FELT THAT WAY ABOUT
SFX <SOB>
I WON'T EVER
LOVE ANOTHER BOY AGAIN
MEL, THAT'S
I'LL JUST CLOSE UP THE MEMORIES WITH NATSU IN MY HEART,
AND RETIRE
Retire?
EH? FROM WHAT?
MEL.
?

MangaArt
漫画アート

HEY, I'VE GOT MY JOB AGAIN TODAY
DO YOU WANT TO COME TO THE STORE WITH ME?
I'll buy you a parfait or something.
Sniff
OKAY ?
IT'S NOT GOOD TO STAY INSIDE ALL DAY
Sob
SORRY MEI THIS IS DEPRESS-ING, ISN'T IT?
Like a sad song.*
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME

*Translator Note: "Enka ne," or "This is enka, isn't it?" Enka is a kind of Japanese ballad



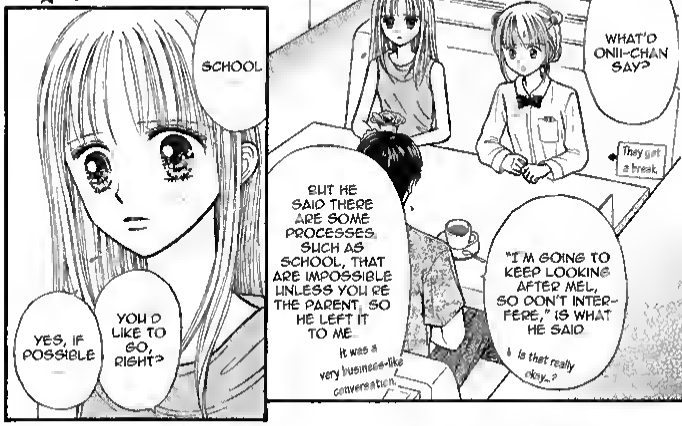
SFX: <LOOKING AROUND?
ISN'T SHE!?
YEAH NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO HUMBLE
I SEE SHE'S PRETTY, ISN'T SHE?
SFX: <HMMM?
ONII-CHAN IS OVERSEAS FOR A JOB, AND SHE SEEMED BORED, SO—
I brought her along
I better not tell him "They're siblings"
MENU
YOU'RE MY TYPE, AND—
YOU'RE CUTE TOO THE TOP OF THE MIDDLE GROUP, I'D SAY
DON'T BE SO HUMBLE, COMPARING YOURSELF TO PEOPLE WHO LOOK EXTRA-ORDINARY FROM THE OUTSIDE
Mofi?
Mofi's image of a "rare animal"
EXACTLY!! LIVING WITH TWO BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE LIKE THAT!
SOMETIMES I THINK "WHAT AM I? A RARE ANIMAL THAT WANDERED IN?"
A rare animal?
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR
SFX: <FLIP FLAP?
Hmmm...
As I thought he says embarrassing things without a problem!
Shuu-kun's really—
Is he being honest!? Or is he just a sweet talker??
MENU
SFX: <FLUSH>
YOU'RE CUTE. YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'VE GOT—
A GOOD PERSONALITY AND HEART, TOO
...

BUT THANKS I'M HAPPY
It's embarrassing though.
DON'T BE HAPPY ABOUT IT IT'S NOT SUCH HIGH PRAISE.
I said you're the top of the middle.
OR WOULD YOU RATHER I SAY YOU'RE THE BOTTOM OF THE TOP GROUP?
No, he's not a sweet talker
HUH !?
UMMM, THAT'S A TOUGH QUES-TION!!
IT'S TOUGH
SFX: CHEWED
Excuse me!
Hey! Don't just stand there talking
Ah!
I'm not sure why but ever since I was little
I've always thought Whatever I'm just an uncute brat hmph
I wonder why
That was the first time...
I've ever been told I was cute by a boy
I'm happy
SFX: GRIND

SFX <KNOCK>
バーン
It's me
SFX <SHOCK!?>
びくっ!!
Your food
HERE, MEL
WAHH
Wonderful!
SFX <GUDENLV>
OH, IT'S SATO-CHAN!
Oh, right
The cause is this guy!!
Welcome!
H-HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I HEARD FROM EIKO YOU WERE HERE
OH, MEL'S HERE TOO! THAT'S PER-FECT
Take this uncute brat and get out!!
Not cute
She's not lovable at all
SFX <CRASH>

SFX: <GRAB>
IT'S TROUBLE-SOME FOR US IF YOU CAUSE A DISTURBANCE IN THE STORE
UH
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, SIR?
JUST HOLD ON ONE SECOND!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH MEL!?
THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO TALK TO HER ABOUT RIGHT NOW
I'M NOT MOV-ING!
LET GO OF ME!
EXCUSE ME!
ME! YOU
NO THROW HIM OUT! YEAH!
SFX: <CHOKING HEAD GRAB>
OH, MEL.
SATO-CHAN?
HUH, YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
Yeah.
HE'S THE UNCLE OF A DIIIIISTANT RELATIVE
Hey, I know
IS THAT ALL? I THOUGHT HE WAS TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH YOU
(That he was just a thug from somewhere.)
I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM NATSU THIS AFTER-NOON
HE SAID HE WAS IN ENGLAND

MangaArt


SCHOOL
YES, IF POSSIBLE
YOU'D LIKE TO GO, RIGHT?
WHAT'D ONII-CHAN SAY?
They get a break.
BUT HE SAID THERE ARE SOME PROCESSES, SUCH AS SCHOOL, THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS YOU'RE THE PARENT, SO HE LEFT IT TO ME.
"I'M GOING TO KEEP LOOKING AFTER MEL, SO DON'T INTERFERE," IS WHAT HE SAID.
It was a very business-like conversation.
Is that really okay...?

IS THERE STILL SOME OTHER IMPORTANT THING!?
WHAT?!
!?
BUT WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT? LIVING IN A GROUP...
THAT STORY IS...
N-NO
Um
AH!!
UM...!
IN AUSTRALIA, YOU WERE ALWAYS
ALL WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY WAS "THAT" MATTER BUT-
YOU'RE BETTER NOW, AREN'T YOU?
THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE IT.

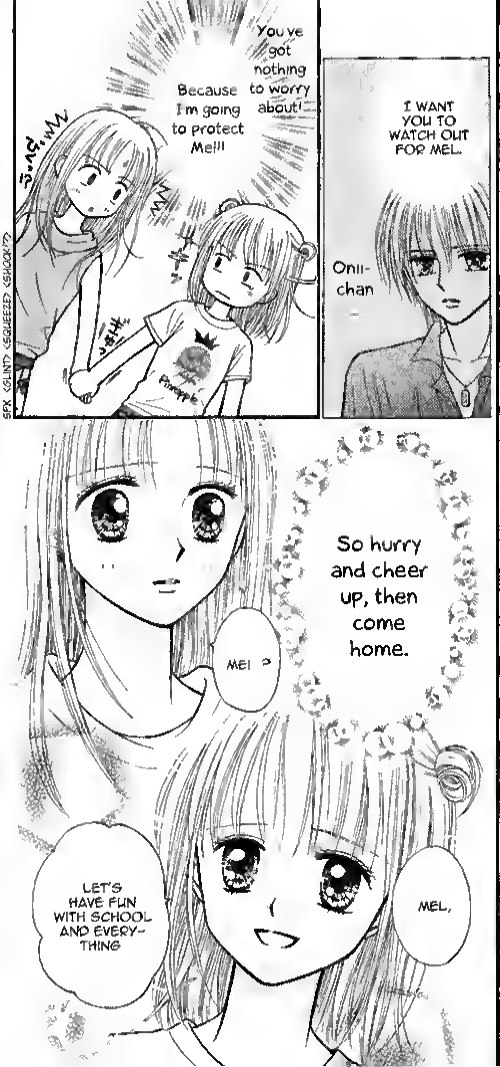
I THINK IT'LL JUST MAKE OTHERS WORRY ABOUT ME NEEDLESSLY
AH! YES, BUT—
WHAT!? WHAT IS IT!?
MEL, SHE'S... SINCE SHE WAS THREE YEARS OLD, UNTIL PRETTY RECENTLY...
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN HOSPITALIZED
SO—
SHE'S NEVER BEEN TO SCHOOL RIGHT?
—
W-WHY? WERE YOU SICK?
Y-YEAH
YES
—

Mei, you don't need to worry, okay!?
Really?
She was in the hospital for ten years... It must have been pretty serious?
I got really good medical treatment, so...
Thanks to mom's... and a lot of other people's goodwill.
But I'm better now! Really, I'm completely healed!
SFX: <CLATTER> <BOING BOING>
But you still have some medicine you have to keep taking, right?
Really! See, I've got this much energy, don't I!?
Yes, I'm having it sent to me these days.
From an Australian hospital.
Right?
See!
Right?
The surprises just keep coming.
I think my brain's going to freeze up.
You can study though, right?
Yeah, about average I think.
Oh, that!
There's no need to go flying around sit?
Yeah, I see.

I HAD A TEACHER COME TO MY HOSPITAL ROOM AND...
I READ A LOOOOOOT OF BOOKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
Since I was bored.
BUT THERE'S A LOT I DON'T KNOW, EVEN ABOUT AUSTRALIA
IF I WENT BACK I COULDN'T EVEN SHOW SOMEONE AROUND
It's embarrassing
OH! BUT THIS... THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NATSU...
FOR NOW, LET'S PLEASE JUST KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM NATSU!
PLEASE!
OKAY.
MEI, YOU TOO!
RIGHT NOW, THINGS ARE LIKE THIS, BUT I'D LIKE TO AT LEAST...
KEEP FROM WORRYING HIM TOO MUCH
Mei...
O-OKAY, I UNDERSTAND.

It's certainly true...
There were a lot of times when it occurred to me she didn't know very much about the world
But...
Haven't you ever cooked before?
What's new?
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT'S THAT, MEI?
So that's how it was...
YOUR LIFE IN THE HOSPITAL... I BET IT WAS PRETTY ROUGH
Right?
HMM
IF I THINK ABOUT IT NOW, IT WASN'T
I was able to go home about once a year too.
I THINK THE ONE WHO WAS REALLY SUFFERING WAS MOM
SHE WORKED A LOT TO PAY MY MEDICAL BILLS
SHE WAS OVER-WORKED

SONGS WERE ALL I HAD
ALL I DID WAS SING SONGS IN MY BED
THE PRIEST FROM MY CHURCH WOULD COME VISIT ME OFTEN, AND WE'D PRAY TOGETHER HE TAUGHT ME SONGS TOO
AND MOM TAUGHT ME JAPANESE SONGS AND SUCH
SO YOU'VE LIKED SONGS EVER SINCE THEN
YEAH I LIKE SONGS BUT IT'S MORE LIKE-
Pineapple


You've got nothing to worry about!
Because I'm going to protect Mel!!
I WANT YOU TO WATCH OUT FOR MEL.
Onii-chan
SFX: <CLINT> <SQUEEEZE> <SHOOT!>
la la
I felt like...
I'd started to understand why..
Mel's voice can pierce your heart.
So hurry and cheer up, then come home.
MEL?
MEL,
LET'S HAVE FUN WITH SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING

4

A continuation about the carrying case. If it's a soft case, just bumping it a little bit will damage the instrument. It's really bad if it gets dented or bent out of shape! And since instruments are expensive... Around 200,000 or 300,000 yen.

But I do use a soft case. Am I a risk-taker? As for why it's because the hard case is heavy and becomes baggage. Carrying it around is incredibly inconvenient. When I was in the club, most people never took theirs out of the club room though...

But I wanted to take mine home almost every day. It's lonely if you think, "I want to play!" and it's not there, so...

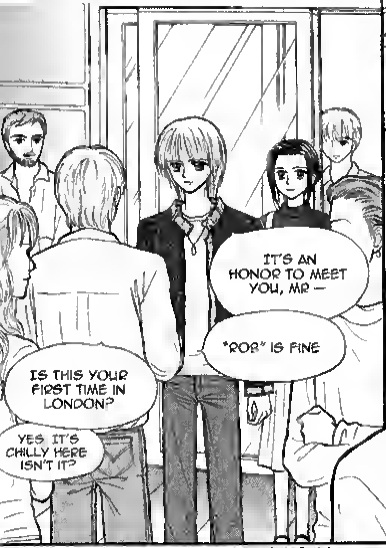
I'd only use the hard case when I was traveling or something like that.

That's why Mei does the same thing. I wanted her to be constantly playing, even at home.

I've been using the soft case all along but my instrument is still fine, because I was careful. But if I'd carried it around and bumped it it would have been bad. Come to think of it...

In the volume 12 that came up yesterday there was a scene where it looked like Mei would bump her sax. What happened after that, I wonder. We'll find out in volume three.

♪ Looking forward to it. ☺


London Rec. Studios
HEY
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, NATSU!
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, MR —
"ROB" IS FINE
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN LONDON?
YES. IT'S CHILLY HERE ISN'T IT?

AUTHOR NOTE: Please consider horizontal writing to be in English.

IT'S SUDDEN, BUT WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR PERFORMANCE SKILLS
We've seen you on TV but...
HOW ABOUT SOME GUITAR?
SURE. OKAY
I'VE HEARD THAT JAPANESE GUITARISTS PLAY WITH ALL FIVE FINGERS
WELL, I DON'T REALLY KNOW
ハハハ
HI, NATSU I'M RUTH
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M EDDY!
I'll never remember them all
I'M MOLLY
I'M BEN
I'M PAUL!

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE PLAYING THIS SONG A TRY?
ZOE'S SUCH A STRICT GUY
OF ALL THINGS, SUCH A DIFFICULT SONG
I'M SURE HE CAN DO IT. THEY SAY HE'S A PRODIGY AND ALL...
But he really is very young...

SFX <SOUND OF GUITAR STRUMMING>

SFX <ENERGETIC STRUMMING>

INCREDIBLE...!
NOW THIS IS REAL TALENT!!
♫ YEAH
YEAH!
ALREADY DANCING.

If I just memorize the pattern
I can even play it with my eyes closed
AWE-SOME!
NATSU, YOU'RE SO GOOOOD!
SFX (JANGLED PLAYING) (STRONG)
!?
STOP?
Oh, NATSU ?
.....

"CAN'T GET INTO IT TODAY," HE SAYS THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING
WAS THAT REALLY "NOT GETTING INTO IT"?
If he did get into it, what would happen?
THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND OBSERVE AROUND THE STUDIO
OKAY I'M VERY SORRY
AH! NO PROBLEM. YOU'RE TIRED FROM YOUR LONG TRIP
Sorry about that.
I CAN'T GET INTO IT TODAY
SORRY
GOOD WORK!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
NATSU, AS I THOUGHT, YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE ALL DAY ...
SOMETHING HAPPENED, DIDN'T IT?
EVEN SINCE YOU SUDDENLY CAME YOU'VE BEEN WEIRD
YEAH WE DO
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOTHING.
Maybe it's just jet lag.
A worker from Ventor
IS THAT SO? THEN YOU GOT TO SEE SOMETHING GOOD
went "spring"
WH WHAT'S THE MATTER...? IT MAY BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE LIKE THAT
Somehow that's not it...
...?
HEY NATSU!
I came here!
YEAH

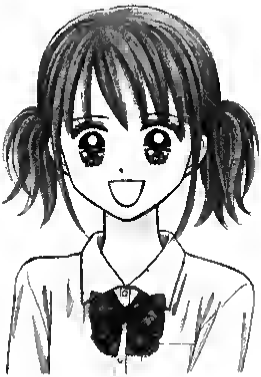
SPACTHAUD
SIGH
It's a studio with its own kitchen.
013
THE TWO OF US ARE GOING BACK TOMORROW, BUT... WILL YOU BE OKAY?
I'LL BE FINE, I'LL BE FINE
THANKS FOR SHOWING ME HERE.
How...!?
"To put my feelings in order"
Huh

She looks grown-up.
A foreigner?
She's pretty!
2-1
SOME-HOW IT'S NOT A VERY FITTING NAME
I'M A RELATIVE OF MEI'S
Also to Natsu-san...
I WAS BORN IN AUSTRALIA
UMM, I'M TAKAHARA MELVINA.
SFX: <CROWD CHATTERING>
SFX: <CHATTER CHATTER>
SFX: <CIRCLE> <STARE STARE>
Whoa, she's thin! I'm jealous.
She looks like an idol.
It's a foreigner!
Herro*!
Taking various circumstances into consider-ation we decided she'd start in second year
Mei's really supposed to be a third-year but
I'd feel better if she's in the same class, so...
CALL ME MEL!
Pleased to meet you.
*Translation Note. "Herro" is Engrish for "Hello"
SFX: <CLAP CLAP>

HOW IS IT? YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
EVERYONE STARES AT ME...
(OF course... they'll look...)
THAT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NEW
AH! HERE'S THE BATHROOM.
Go ahead.
WAIT FOR ME, OK...Y?
YEP.
Mmm!
OH HEY!
SFX: CHUUUUU
SUPER PRETTY, ISN'T SHE?
That's like nice.
BUT SHE TALKS WEIRD, DOESN'T SHE?
Her pronunciation.
HER NAME IS WEIRD TOO.
"MEL-VINA"?
あはは
SFX: CHU?
SHE'S HERE, SHE'S HERE
UH-OH!
HUH?
UH, UM. MEL-CHAN
WE'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW PRETTY YOU ARE, MEL-CHAN!
Did she hear us?
RIGHT?

SFX. <SMACK>
LUNCH BREAK!
HUH?
What's that?
Hey! Wait a second!!
MEL!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING??
It hurts!
SHE HIT HER, THIS GIRL!
SHE
I HATE HER! NO!
SHE'S A BAD PERSON! I HATE HER!
HEY!
MEL.
SHE'S A BAD PERSON!
MEI, BUT THIS GIRL...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
Did you hit her!?
EH!?
TO MY FACE SHE COMPLI-MENTED ME! IT'S DISGUSTING!
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SAYING THAT I'M WEIRD BEHIND MY BACK,

COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON!?
ME!...
YOU, TOO!!
KYA!?
YOU KNOW, THIS GIRL IS LIKE A CHILD WHO'S JUST EXPERIENCING THE WORLD FOR THE FIRST TIME
SHE'S A PURE PERSON!
SFX: (HMPH? (SILENCE)
I got mad for the first time in a while.
.....
HUMH!?
YOU CAN'T JUST CRY AND CRY FROM SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!
YOU GOTTA GET STRONGER!
Onii-chan...
Our "Andante days" may be getting further and further away...



MangaArt
漫画アート